

California **GARDEN**

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HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

- Jan. 3
Through
Jan. 20
Jan. 4
or 5
Jan. 6
Jan. 8
Jan. 15-16
Jan. 16
Jan. 21
Jan. 22
Feb. 2
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Feb. 15
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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1994

FEATURES

- 5 Color Control in the Garden Fredrik Liljebblad
- 6 Growing Proteas Barbara S. Jones
- 7 Micro-Gardens Have Micro-Climates Robert Horwitz
- 8 Purple and Velvet: The Royal Touch . . Catherine L. Zinsky
- 9 Balboa Park Rose Garden Marianne Truby
- 10 Accreditation as a Botanical Garden for the
San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park . . . Fredrik Liljebblad
- 13 Classical Camellias Susan Fox
- 14 Growing Orchids Outdoors
in Southern California Harry Tolen
- 15 Learning Opportunities Jacqueline Coleman
- 19 Two East County Nurseries Paul DeMartini

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Horticultural Calendar Jean E. Johns
- 4 Gleanings Staff Edited
- 12 Profiles Susan Fox
- 16 Now is the Time Penny Bunker
- 20 Book Reviews Staff Written
- 22 Affiliates Lynn Beyerle
- 25 Bus Tours Helen Gagliardi

Cover by Dordee Ogren, who works in both acrylic and water color — the medium for this picture of *Mandevilla boliviensis*. She is a member of the San Diego Water Color Society and the El Cajon Art Association.

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Gleanings . . .

PLANTING SEASON . . .

This is a busy season for Southern California gardeners. It is the time to plant — especially trees, shrubs and proteas. For the next few months there will not appear to be too much plant activity, but there is growth below ground. This is when strong root systems will be developing.

This is usually the rainy season so the amount of watering needed will decrease. The gardener should watch for standing water and provide some type of drainage. Most plants cannot survive long if roots are too wet.

Bare slopes created by fires or new construction are often washed down with moderately heavy rain. If planting, experts advise that landscape netting be staked to the ground to hold the soil in place until the plants are well established. If there has been no planting done, experts advise that the slope be protected with heavy plastic sheeting that is held in place with sandbags.

WILDFIRES . . .

The fall wildfires have reemphasized the importance of using fire resistant plants for landscaping. Those living near open spaces or canyons should take advantage of this season to plant fast growing ice plant (succulent) or trailing gazania in the buffer zones to protect their homes and other structures.

Many homes in the recent fires were lost even though there was an available swimming pool. The water from the pool could have been used if the owners had an emergency pump available. As the electric lines are often immediately destroyed, a gasoline powered generator can provide enough electricity to power a small pump that can be attached to a garden hose. If the roof and surrounding foliage are wet it can resist fire. Also, water can be used to douse embers. (A small generator comes in handy during power outages to operate a heater, refrigerator, or furnace.)

AFTER WILDFIRES . . .

Any debris left by the fire should be removed, but plant roots should be saved to help stabilize the soil. If there is a thick layer of ash, the top layer should be removed. If a light ash cover is mixed with mulch it can enrich the soil.

Garden plants that have been singed or burned can rebound. Large plants and trees may recover if nothing is

done. They should be watered and then the gardener should wait and see what happens for about six months. Large, dead branches can be removed but any leaf bearing branches should remain. After the first year, the trees or large shrubs can be pruned to open-up the plant and give it an attractive shape. Small plants that have been extensively damaged can be cut to the ground. Many will resprout from the roots if given a chance.

Many gardeners have had their plants damaged by falling acid ash. Just wash the plants well with a strong stream of water. The hot winds damaged many plant tips, too. Just follow the wait and see routine. Don't feed the plants, but water. Then wait. You probably will be surprised when new leaves appear in a short time.

MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS . . .

One of the joys of my childhood when visiting Tijuana was to come home with some Mexican Jumping Beans. (I remember that they were 3 for 5¢.) If the beans were held in a warm hand they would begin to jump. Usually they stopped jumping after a week or two. They can still be found in border towns of Mexico.

The Mexican Jumping Bean is the bean like seed of a native Mexican shrub, a species of *Sesbastiana*. The quick jumping movements are caused by a caterpillar that lives inside the seed. Butterflies deposit their eggs on the flowers. When the eggs hatch the resulting caterpillar enters the seed and eats away the inside of the seed as it develops. Warmth makes it more active. When the butterfly forms it pushes through a circular lid in the seed that was made by the caterpillar. The butterfly flies away.

HOUSEPLANT EATING CATS . . .

Cat owners say that cats that eat houseplants are probably not getting enough chlorophyll in their diet. Some plants can make them ill, and the chewing can leave some very unsightly plants. One lady suggests buying a plant that the cat loves, a dwarf palm (*Chamaedorea elegans*), in a four-inch or six-inch pot. She places it near the kitty-liter box and sprinkles a bit of catnip on the soil. She says the cat loves this plant because its leaves are thin and rough and resemble the grass that the cat would prefer to eat if it could get outside. She has to buy a new plant from time to time, but her cat leaves the other houseplants alone. □

Barbara S. Jones

COLOR CONTROL IN THE GARDEN

by FREDRIK LILJEBLAD

WHAT COLOR ARE LILACS when you're out of the room? Color, even more than beauty, is truly in the eye of the beholder. The perception of color is not only extremely subjective, but is an area that people tend to be remarkably casual about. Even the words used to describe color are either vague or hyperbolized beyond any recognition. "Amethyst," for example, has completely supplanted the word "purple." Nevertheless, it so seldom actually refers to the gemstone's slightly hard, slightly muted shade of purple — midway between red-violet and the bluish "bishop's purple." Instead, it is often misapplied to describe shades ranging anywhere from aubergine to mulberry to plum to deep periwinkle.

How many roses are truly the deep, muted shade of pink connoted by the color name "rose"? Even the venerable *Sunset Western Garden Book* is culpable: it describes the flowers of the Hong Kong orchid tree (*Bauhinia blakeana*) as "...cranberry maroon through rose, purple to orchid pink," while all the ones I have ever seen range from deep to pale magenta with, perhaps, a few streaks of carmine.

Now that we are presumably speaking the same color language — or at least a mutually recognizable dialect — let's proceed to the basic thrust of this article: the control of color in the garden. There are roughly two schools of thought regarding color combinations in the garden. One popular school of thought proclaims that since all colors are found randomly in nature, no color is unacceptable. The English herbaceous border is often cited as a justification for this stance. Indeed, in the hands of masters (who are constantly rearranging the plants to accentuate or play down various combinations) it can be very impressive. In lesser hands, however, the English herbaceous border has been the excuse for some bilious color combinations. The other school of thought states that the gardener must exercise restraint and judgement to avoid a cacophonous color palette in the garden. By now I think you know which point of view I espouse.

To make my point, I ask you to imagine the bluish-magenta of *Liaris spicata* next to one of the tawny orange shades found in hybrid daylilies. How about the fire engine red of many cannas next to the cadet blue of certain delphiniums? As I write this, I look out the window into a neighbor's garden where red-violet bougainvillea cascades over an arbor directly behind a *Eucalyptus ficifolia* in full, deep salmon bloom. I avert my eyes to the soothing, putty-colored keyboard. The reason these color combinations are unpleasing is that they come from incompatible ends of the spectrum. Colorists tend to

speak in terms of "hot" and "cold" colors. Yellow, orange, and many shades of red are hot colors. Purples, blues, pure greens, and most shades of pink are cool colors. White is neutral. There are, however, shades of red with enough blue in them to become cool (the red found in many fuchsias, for example) and a few pinks with so little blue in them that they become hot (such as pink shades of shirley poppies). As a rule of thumb, the stronger the hot and cool shades, particularly if they are from the extreme ends of the spectrum, the greater their distance from each other should be. Rules are meant to be broken, but one first must know the rules. Remember, too, that colors like red or deep orange (white too) come forward while blues, most purples and pastels recede. So plant your brilliant red flowers relatively farther from the viewer than blue or purple ones—at least if you're trying to create the illusion of depth.

This brings us to the effect of light on colors in different climates. The same flower will look different on a cloudy day than on a brilliantly sunny one. As a rule, bright sun "bleaches" colors, making them appear paler than they really are. In the Mediterranean climates of Italy, southern France, Mexico, Southern California and Sydney, Australia light is very white and strong and comes directly from overhead — hence the pure, vivid colors usually favored in such climates. Many of these colors would look unbearably lurid in the rainy, temperate climates of such places as Japan, England, Pacific Northwest and Melbourne, Australia where the light is weaker and frequently diffused by clouds. This is reflected in the popularity of many delicate pastel shades that tend to fade into insignificance if planted in full sun in our climate.

Light varies by season. Since both the angle and intensity of sunlight changes from spring to summer and from autumn to winter, colors, too, appear different with the seasons. Those burnt orange African marigolds that looked so cheerful at midsummer have by Halloween begun to look quite garish. Nature often, although not always, helps us by making the most brilliantly-hued flowers bloom in the season of strongest sunlight. Certain flowers actually change color as the weather cools in autumn. A 'Peace' rose blooming in October has considerably more (and more intense) pink than one in June. The gardener has to be aware of these nuances if color effects in the garden are to be properly exploited.

Up to now, we've dealt with flower color since almost all of us put the highest priority on flowering plants. There is a tremendous palate of greens as well. These are

(continued on page 26)

GROWING PROTEAS

by BARBARA S. JONES

THIS IS THE BEST season to plant proteas in the San Diego area. Proteas were first introduced into Southern California in 1964. Since then they have become a popular plant for producing magnificent, impressive cut flowers that are highly prized by flower arrangers.

Proteas grow well in the coastal areas of Southern California from Santa Barbara to San Diego. They do best if grown in full sun. Six hours of sunlight are recommended, but they will survive on as little as four hours of sunlight per day. Proteas are fairly frost tolerant and some will withstand temperatures of 25°F. for short periods of time.

Some proteas will tolerate alkaline soils such as *Protea obtusifolia*, *P. nerifolia*, *P. repens* and *Leucospermum cordifolia*. Most proteas prefer a soil that is slightly acid (pH of 6.5). The pH of local alkaline soil can be lowered by a light application of soil sulphur. The soils must be well drained. Jean and Ken Nikodym use a soil mix of one-third virgin soil, one-third sand, and one-third peat moss for potting plants.

Most growers feel that the best time to plant proteas is during the growing season from November to March. To plant proteas in the open ground prepare a hole about twice the size of the container and mix fir bark, redwood shavings or leaf mold with the soil (ratio of two-thirds soil, one-third additive). Fill the hole with the above mixture. After planting, dig a basin 2-3 inches deep around the plant and mulch 1-1½ inches deep with the additive you used. Fill the basin at least twice with water and allow the water to compact the soil.

Fertilizer will increase bloom numbers and quality. A light feeding of a liquid fertilizer (Spoonit®, Watch Us Grow®) can be used every two months from early March

to late September. The Nikodyms rush out before a winter rain and scatter sulfate of ammonia (half strength) on the ground around established plants.

Proteas are relatively resistant to diseases and insects. If a problem develops do not use conventional pesticides without consulting your local nurseryman.

Watering can be tricky. The plants need good drainage and can be killed by overwatering. A moderate amount of water applied each week should be ideal. Sometimes more is needed. The Nikodyms water their potted plants every other day in the summer.

Blooms will appear sometime between the second and the fourth year after planting. After that they will bloom annually. Protea plants prefer to spread naturally and do not need staking. They thrive on pruning. Do not dig around establish plants because they have fine roots near the surface.

There should be protea plants available now. Many gardeners have been discouraged by losing their first plants. Mature plants need quite a lot of room, so be sure to take that into consideration before you select a plant. Check with your local nurseryman to find out what does well in your area. They grow

successfully in areas less than one mile from the ocean and as far inland as Valley Center. This is a wide range of climates, so there must be a plant or two that will do well in your garden. □

The photo is of an arrangement of queen proteas done by Elma Garcia.



Information for this article was obtained from growing instructions by the California Protea Association and from Jean Nikodym who is a trustee at Quail Botanical Gardens.

MICRO-GARDENS HAVE MICRO-CLIMATES

by ROBERT HORWITZ

IN THE PAST fifteen years or so, apartment and condominium living have become a way of life for very many people. In San Diego County at least a quarter of the population makes their homes in multiple unit dwellings. Consequently, the concept of having a garden takes on different dimensions . . . usually much smaller!

Balconies and small gardens have their micro-climates that can differ from the ambient climate that surrounds the area in which you live. Thus, it is important that you get very familiar with the micro-climate at your micro-garden site before you invest in plant and support structures and containers. This means getting familiar with the year-round conditions that prevail in your particular niche. Then the selection and placement of plants and containers will aid optimizing the longevity and attractiveness of the garden.

Here are a few things to consider when you plan your micro-garden:

- Direction of the prevailing wind

- Direction that the garden area faces

- Height above ground

- Surrounding structures

- Amount of sunlight available throughout the seasons

- Preference for types of plants and flowers

- Planting containers and support structures

- Ease of watering and maintenance

- Getting plants and equipment to the site

- Neighbor relations

You should be aware of the prevailing wind that impinges on your balcony. Most prevailing winds are from the West, but surrounding structures may alter this. They will deflect the wind according to its structural properties. During storms winds comes from many directions and could be intense at times. Do not despair, as there are attractive wind screens that will preclude plant damage from winds. There are plants that thrive on windy conditions.

Exposure to the sun is critical when selecting plants. You should be aware of the movement of the direction of the sun's light as the seasons change. A lot depends on the latitude of the area in which you live. During the winter, the sun's rays come from much farther south than in the summer. This means that depending on what time of year it is, you may or may not have enough sun for the plants that you have selected. Or, conversely, you may have too much sunlight for shade loving plants. In addition to this concern about sunlight's direction, you must be aware of the direction that your balcony faces. If it faces east, you will obviously have morning sun; if west, afternoon sun.

If you face south, you will have the most sun for a day and if north, the least. It seems as if builders will orient their structure according to the compass.

Height above the ground becomes a factor when you take into consideration the wind velocity and light intensities. The higher you go, the chances are that the wind velocity will increase. This is due to less interference by low placed buildings and trees. Also, the amount of light available, generally, is greater with greater height. This could be a danger of being caught in a "plant culture canyon" if you live close to the ground and are surrounded by tall buildings. These surrounding structures will play funny games with the wind, block off sunlight on one hand and increase light by reflection on the other. Certainly, this will affect how thing will grow in your micro-garden.

If you desire a lot of color from flowers, your micro-garden must be designed to accommodate seasonal changes easily. Permanent planting is risky in a small garden, because the plants that you have chosen may be quite vulnerable to season and climate. If low amount of care is high on the list of garden qualities, then select perennial plants that are both drought and wind resistant. You will sacrifice color in blossoms, however. There are a large number of rugged dwarf plants that have been bred for small gardens that are available, so plant selection will not be too difficult. Assortments in the sizes and shapes of the plant containers and container stands to show off the plant will require some study. Plan well at this point, trying to visualize what the whole planting assembly will look like when it is completed, including the need for care and maintenance.

And, consider what this complete garden will do to your neighbors. Water in a way so that the drainage does not spatter or drip on someone else's property. You may have chosen a vine that could, in time, invade a neighbor's area. Anchor pots and stands so that they will not be a hazard by falling, or dumping a load of soil on the people below.

The main consideration for a balcony garden is to plan well ahead of time, taking your time to decide what will work for you in your location. If you are lucky, you may find others who have already established a micro-garden and you can determine what did and did not work for them. Look around to see what others have done and emulate them with modifications to reflect your own personality. □

ROBERT D. HORWITZ is a retired aerospace engineer and a regular contributor to local publications.

PURPLE AND VELVET: THE ROYAL TOUCH

by CATHERINE L. ZINSKY

MOST PLANT LOVERS ARE familiar with the bright leaves of *Coleus x hybrida*. Compared to the cultivars 'Molten Lava' or 'Scarlet Poncho', *Coleus shirensis* is a wallflower. No, I don't mean it resembles *Cheiranthus*; I mean that by comparison to its hot-colored cousins, *Coleus shirensis* appears drab. That is not to say that it's without merit.

This particular *Coleus* is a subtle plant, a quiet plant. Some might call it a background plant. I prefer "contrast" plant. In combination with its hot-blooded friends, *C. shirensis* velvety grey-green foliage offers the eye a bit of tranquility. It, simultaneously and unwittingly, accentuates its neighbors' brightness, much as white flowers do in a floral bed.

The familiar bright-colored hybrids are low plants, usually under a foot tall. *C. shirensis*, on the other hand, can become quite tall, between five and seven feet. I keep mine pruned and pinched to two feet or so. As with all *Coleus*, pinching results in a bushier, leafier specimen.

Coleus shirensis is a woody perennial from East Africa that does best in shade or partial shade. Its leaves grow opposite one another, and have scalloped (crenated) edges. What gives the leaves their special attraction, however, is their pubescence — meaning soft, fine hairs cover them. These hairs create a velvety texture that, in combination with the grey-green color, produces a lush, yet quiet effect.

The *Coleus* hybrids are rarely encouraged to flower; instead the plant's energies are redirected toward leaf

development and bushiness, again through pinching. It also should be noted that the flowers of almost all the hybrids are unremarkable and therefore not worthy of cultivating. *Coleus shirensis* should be permitted to flower, however, as its long raceme with its loosely

whorled inflorescence is quite distinctive and lovely. The individual flowers are a rich purple dotted with yellow stamens, a truly lovely combination. On top of all this, the blooms arrive at a most rewarding and lean time: December and January!

Seeds are produced, but I have never attempted to germinate any, mostly because it is so easy to propagate this plant with cuttings — extremely easy. I've actually had new plants root from prunings I've neglected to clean up. Cuttings will root in water as well, a process many children enjoy watching.

C. shirensis can be planted in any season, grown directly in the ground or as a potted plant, in the house or out-of-doors. It is more drought-tolerant than the hybrid *Coleus* and needs

good drainage. Be aware that it is somewhat tender and should therefore be given frost protection. It may not be easy to locate to purchase, but can be seen at Sea World.

With this much versatility — and beauty to boot — *C. shirensis* should unquestionably be given more notice. It's a perennial whose velvet and purple combination give it a royal touch of class. □

CATHERINE L. ZINSKY is a garden writer for national magazines. Her most recent article was the center feature in *Houseplant* magazine.



BALBOA PARK ROSE GARDEN

by MARIANNE TRUBY

BALBOA PARK ROSE GARDEN is a living museum and home of our national flower. Of all the flowers that grace the gardens of the world the rose alone has withstood the vagaries of time. Rosarians of San Diego will remember 1993 as the year the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden was completed. The planting of approximately 600 roses this spring completed the largest of the planned three circular beds.

This rose garden is the eighth rose garden planned or built in the park. The first rose garden was planted in the park during 1914 when the park was being developed as a part of the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition. It was at the intersection of Sixth and Laurel and was about an acre. This garden was replaced with the lawn bowling green. The roses of that time were not vigorous and usually were less than thirty inches in height. Those early roses provided a beautiful spring bloom with little or no repeat display. Plans to build a replacement garden were made and discarded for lack of money and/or protests when suggested sites required the removal of trees. From 1952 until 1975 roses were maintained in an area on the perimeter of the Morton Bay fig tree north of the Museum of Natural History. Invasive roots were a constant problem and maintenance was difficult.

During the forties and fifties no region produced a greater number of leading varieties of roses than Southern California. This was in large measure due to the extensive breeding programs that had been initiated by such firms as Howards of Hemet, Armstrong Nurseries, Howard and Smith and Germain's. In 1930 the Plant Patent Act made it possible for plant breeders to gain some benefit and the number of new roses propagated greatly increased. The first rose patent was issued for 'Red Talisman', patented by Amlings of Orange. In 1936 America led the world in the production of new roses. Southern California growers were dedicated to the pursuit of roses created for our growing conditions. The organization All America Rose Selections, Inc. was established to prevent the introduction of undesirable varieties in 1939. Their purpose is to test, judge and score varieties.

Southern California has been especially fortunate in the number of fine hybridizers who had made this area their home. Although all hybridizers have individual objectives, they have all worked toward the production of new varieties that have ever greater vigor; that have more resistance to disease, especially mildew; that have larger thicker, and more beautiful foliage; and that have graceful flower buds.

The San Diego Rose Society recognized the urgent

need to establish and construct a first-rate rose garden to display this growing group of great roses. A committee was appointed in 1969 but progress was slow. Site evaluation and selection were subject to approval of various city groups and frequent reevaluation was the norm. Due in large part to the persistence of the Chairman, Richard Streeper, and the cooperation of Jim Miltch, the Parker Foundation agreed to donate a major amount of money to establish a rose garden. As a result the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden was created. The garden is built on a deep landfill that was not complete at the original planting. The plantings this spring completed the largest of the circular beds as planned.

This garden of 2,200 bushes (178 varieties) is certainly a tribute to the modern rose. A small garden of miniatures and several "old roses" are included. The garden is highly visible and accessible to the public. It is the site of many weddings, often using our magnificent bush of 'Cecile Brunner' as a bower. The location of Park Boulevard at the pedestrian bridge, east of the Plaza de Balboa, adjacent to the desert garden, has many advantages. When the bushes are pruned early in the year the desert garden is blooming. Minimum problems with tree roots and the raised beds contribute to the well maintained, large bushes — almost always in bloom. We are especially fortunate to have the enthusiastic and knowledgeable support of the Balboa Park Staff in maintaining this garden at a level far above that found in too many public rose gardens. The San Diego Rose Garden Corps were invited to help with routine maintenance such as picking spent blooms.

New introductions are added to the garden each year and the garden is a designated AARS Display Garden. Modern rose hybridizers such as Walter Lammerts, Herb Swim and Bill Warriner have contributed much to this garden and their roses or their seedlings will live on in our rose garden. In 1935 The San Diego Rose Society staged the first National Rose Show in San Diego. On June 3-6, 1994, the society will host the 124th American Rose Society National Rose Show in San Diego.

Maps indicating points of interest in Balboa Park now include this garden. Three recently published botanical guide books, *Beautiful Gardens*, Ironwood Press; *American Garden Guidebook (West)*, M. Evans; and *California Gardens* published by Capra Press include the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden in their recommendations. □

MARIANNE TRUBY is an ARS Consulting Rosarian and judge, Past President of the San Diego Rose Society and Past Director of the Pac. Southwest District.

SAN DIEGO ZOO BOTANICAL GARDEN
TIGER RIVER TRAIL



Zoological Society — Ron Garrison

ACCREDITATION AS A BOTANICAL GARDEN FOR SAN DIEGO ZOO AND WILD ANIMAL PARK

by Fredrik Liljeblad

THERE ARE PROBABLY ONLY a few places in the world where the name of the San Diego Zoo is unknown. For decades, it has been a byword for the enlightened concept of zoo-as-environment, a template for zoos throughout the world to model themselves on. But how many people have thought of the Zoo as a botanical garden? Except for a vague image of pandas chewing on bamboo leaves (the Zoo provides over thirty different species and cultivars — not all of them for the panda's delectation), or koalas scuttling up a eucalypt (again, one of about thirty species), few people other than a handful of San Diego's resident plant lovers have a concept of the tremendous variety of horticultural riches in the Zoo's collection. It may come as a surprise to the average person, and many a keen gardener as well, that the San Diego Zoo recently underwent a rigorous process to accredit its botanical garden.

Alison Voss is the wry and witty museum accreditation coordinator and assistant to Zoo Horticulturist Charles Coburn. She has described her role in the process as a cross between "cattle prodder" and facilitator — a much needed function in view of the stringent accreditation guidelines.

The nearly four-year accreditation process, by the American Association of Museums (AAM), was begun in 1989. One of the most important of the criteria is order and consistency in record keeping. The AAM insists on complete accuracy in the minutiae of the plant collections: the origins and proper labeling of the collections, including their locations, is a key factor in the success or failure of a bid for botanical garden status. This process, known as accessioning, was laborious indeed for an institution whose 125 acres are covered by approximately half a million plants. The various plant collections, built up over decades and not always meticulously documented in those bygone days when creating a "Garden of Eden" was a higher priority than record keeping, proved a real hurdle. Not one to be daunted by such obstacles, Alison persevered and ultimately delivered over fifty pounds of documents to the Zoological Society.

The dominant question that comes to mind is why. Why should a highly respected, world-famous institution put itself to such pains — not to mention the potential loss of face if it were denied accreditation? One answer is that accreditation would confer the highest possible prestige, putting the Zoo (officially) on par with such institutions as the Bronx Zoo or the Metropolitan Museum of Art. More

pragmatically, accreditation of an institution confers favorable consideration in the awarding of grants or contracts and encourages private contributions. It also gives the institution the cachet to attract as staff members the very finest "stars" in their given field.

And who could deny that the San Diego Zoo deserves its newly acquired status as a botanical garden? For the last decade, efforts have been made to recreate the animals' bio-climatic zones: zebras trot across ground whose plantings mimic the African veldt; gorillas amble through tropical rain forest indistinguishable from their native habitat; flamingos splash about in a lush facsimile of the marshy wetlands in which they thrive. This sensitivity is admirable, making the San Diego Zoo tops in its field. There remain, however, the plant collections themselves.

The Zoo boasts one of the world's largest collections of *Cycads*, myriad species and cultivars of *Erythrina*, a superb palm collection and an impressive array of orchids ranging from the eye-catching *Vanda* and *Odontoglossom*, through more subtle, but no less beautiful, *Paphiopedilum*. Almost everywhere the eye rests, unusual and beautiful plants abound: here the sunset-colored, vaguely arachnoid blooms of the African tulip tree (*Spathodea campanulata*) glisten in the sun; there the showy, crepe-like blossoms of the sausage tree (*Kigelia pinnata*) display shades of red so deep and complex they seem to draw you into their very center.

If you think much of this sounds tropical, you're right. Given the mild, zone 24 climate of the Zoo's Balboa Park location, this slant is inevitable. Even in years of "cold" winters, the humidity level and the tremendous amount of vegetation creates a benevolent micro-climate. At the Zoological Society's Wild Animal Park in a low-lying area of inland Escondido, it's a quite different, though just as interesting, horticultural story. There, the outstanding collections include proteas, conifers, bonsai and the Baja garden, comprising plants native to Baja California.

So the next time you visit the San Diego Zoo, remember that you'll be visiting more than a random collection of animals and plants. Rather, you'll be entering a living zoological and botanical museum whose accreditation only confirms what most of us have long known: that it is one of the finest of its kind in the world. □

FREDRIK LILJEBLAD has been a professional writer for over twenty years. He is the author of many textbooks on language learning and cookery, as well as a producer of educational videos. He has gardened in climates as diverse as Sweden, England, Thailand and Japan.

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB

THE AIM OF THE La Jolla Garden Club is to keep La Jolla beautiful, protect native plants and wildlife, to stimulate interest in good gardening, landscaping and flower arranging, and to promote garden club activities. The club's seventy members, led by President Marcia Wilcox, work throughout the year to fulfill these goals. They are continuing the tradition started in 1968 by Dorothy Marx and eight other founding members.

The club has three annual fund-raising events that support their many philanthropic projects. The largest of these is the annual Holiday Tea, held on the first Tuesday in December at the La Jolla Women's Club.

The club members attend weekly workshops starting in September to make items for the bazaar held in conjunction with the tea. There is also a display of flower arrangements and table settings plus a bake sale and entertainment.

The second event is the annual coach tour held in April. Members and guests take a bus trip to a famous garden, nursery or nature preserve, or other cultural event of interest to the members.

The third event is the plant sale held on the first Saturday in May on the patio of Home Savings Bank on Girard Avenue in La Jolla from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Members prepare cuttings and plants months in advance to make the sale a success.

The funds raised from these events are donated back to the community. This year the club awarded four scholarships to needy students studying horticulture or landscape design at Southwestern, Mesa, Cuyamaca and Mira Costa colleges. They also donated money to La Jolla Parks and Recreation Department, SOFA (an after-school tutoring program for needy students), Quail Botanical Garden, the Japanese Friendship Garden, and the National Peace Garden in Washington, D.C.

The club's newest projects are visiting patients and delivering flowers to Torrey Pines Convalescent Hospital and the Cloisters Convalescent Hospital. They also provide floral arrangements for the Riford Senior Center.

All are welcome to attend the general meeting. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the La Jolla Lutheran Church. The club also has a Cultivators Group that takes trips to gardens of interest. This group meets on the fourth Thursday. The Flower Arranger's Group is being reorganized and will meet in a member's home. □

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

GROWING AND SHOWING CAMELLIAS are the major activities of the San Diego Camellia Society. The society was founded in 1945 and originally met in a house in the Spanish Village area of Balboa Park. Since 1980 the club has met in Room 101, Casa del Prado. The current membership is 38 avid men and women camellia growers. Members have included Howard Asper and Harvey Shore, growers who have left their mark on the camellia world.

The goal of the club is to educate the public about the beauty and fun of growing these plants. They accomplish this goal through their two annual flower shows. This year the Camellia Society mini-show will be held on January 15 and 16 in room 101. A special feature will be a plant sale of approximately two hundred camellias from world famous Nuccio's Camellia Nursery in Altadena. On February 5 and 6 the standard judged Camellia Show will be held in room 101. Growers come from as far away as Los Angeles to compete for a blue ribbon for their entry. Plants and waxed camellia blooms will be sold.

Another highlight of the year is participation in the Southern California Camellia Society Show. This year the club will take a bus tour on February 26 to enter specimens in the show that is being held at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino.

The club meets on the third Wednesday from November through April at 7:30 p.m. At a typical meeting members set out any camellias they want judged before 7:30 p.m. The program opens the meeting followed by a break for snacks and judging of the camellias. A business meeting and plant raffle concludes the evening. Programs have included talks about plant diseases, propagation, new varieties, hybridizing and slide shows showing camellias around the world.

President Ruth Sheldon invites the public to the flower shows and extends an invitation to join the society to learn more about beautiful camellias. □

SUSAN FOX interviews the presidents of the clubs and societies for information on their organizations for this feature. Because of the activities of these organizations, many of the best horticultural features are developed and maintained.



IKEBANA INSIGHTS
CLASSIC CAMELLIAS
by SUSAN FOX

ONE OF THE TRADITIONAL flowers for ikebana arrangement is the camellia. The first record of the camellia in Japan appeared about 1900 years ago. In the *Chronicles of Japan* it states that at that time the Emperor Keiko annihilated an outlaw in Kyushu with a hammer made of camellia wood. Since then camellia wood, flowers and oil have appeared in Japanese legends and in daily life. For example, tea is made from camellia leaves and hairdressing is made from camellia oil. Even jewelry is fashioned from the dark brown and shiny camellia seed pods. There is a camellia shrine, a camellia spa, and several temples famous for specimen camellia trees in Japan.

The ultimate challenge for an ikebana artist is making an arrangement using only camellias. Some people judge the skill of the artist by looking at the technique and feeling displayed in this type of arrangement. Using branches and leaves as well as flowers is mandatory in a traditional arrangement. Rules govern how many leaves per branch and how many branches and flowers per arrangement. Achieving the ideal balance between leaves, branches, flowers and container provides the challenge.

The most desirable variety for ikebana is the single white camellia. Many varieties exist in the wild in Japan and others have been developed by hybridists. One classic combination in ikebana is using only a white variety and a red variety of camellia. The Japanese believe that camellias can be used alone in either large or small

arrangements because they have a unique beauty that commands attention without overpowering the viewer.

Western style arrangements can make creative use of camellias. It is common to use camellia foliage as a filler in elaborate flower filled arrangements. The deep-green, shiny leaves add a note of quiet distinction to the background. How much more interesting it would be to select longer, curved branches to add line movement. Varieties with smaller flowers are especially suitable,

some even have slightly weeping branches. Varieties with large flowers can be used as the focal and supporting flowers in mass arrangements.

The best treatment for conditioning camellias is to recut their stems under water, then smash the end of the stems with a hammer and put them into water. Place the flower stems in a bucket of water in a cool, dark place and arrange them after two or three hours. The deeper the water the more water pressure is exerted, forcing water up the stem. Do not submerge the flower because spots will develop on the petals. Arrange them as quickly as possible, to avoid having the stems out of water for any length of time. Try sprinkling a little salt into the base of the stems to prolong the flowers' ability to stay on the branch.

This is camellia season.

Try to bring the beauty and elegance of the camellia into your home. □

SUSAN FOX does flower arranging in both Western and Oriental styles. She has studied Ohara Ikebana for over eleven years.



GROWING ORCHIDS OUTDOORS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

by HARRY TOLEN

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE you read articles about growing orchids outdoors only to find at the end of that article the author lives in Wisconsin, Hawaii or Thailand? Here is the benefit of thirty plus years of practical experience of growing various orchids outside in San Diego County. All grow here in Chula Vista where the temperature dips into the mid-twenties now and then. I have close to 15,000 orchid plants growing outside all year.

"Outdoors" can mean a lot of things. Cymbidiums are the toughest of the orchids, and with regular watering, will grow out in full sun. They will experience some loss of flower buds if left out during a temperature drop to 22-26 degrees, but are really resistant to temperatures above that. Growing them in full sun is best. The plants flower better and grow stronger and healthier. Sunlight is one of the biggest factors in whether your plants flower or not, so do not be afraid to set them in a sunlit area. At first the leaves will get slightly yellow, and perhaps burn on a very hot sunny day, but if you want green leaves, grow ferns!

Cymbidiums have to be the number one plant for outdoor growing. My recommendation to a new grower is to grow them like a rose bush. Use the Triple Lotta's technique! Lotta water, lotta sunshine and lotta fertilizer! You can move them to a shady spot when the buds are about to open to make the flowers last much longer. You will be amply rewarded with great displays of very hardy flowers. Use any fertilizer you have before buying an orchid fertilizer. I use 20-20-20 with trace elements.

Miniature cymbidiums have been developed that

bloom with smaller flowers. I have one called 'Pee Wee' that each year has many stems of over fifty flowers each. They make up in mass what they are missing in flower size. Many of the miniatures make excellent basket plants. They have pendulous spikes, which hang out over the edge of the pot.



What kind of planter mix? Cymbidiums are so easy to grow that almost every grower in San Diego uses a different mix. My current favorite is a bagged mix called Terrelite-Redi Earth. It's basically a granulated peat moss and vermiculite with some starter nutrients, and a wetting agent.

The very best outdoors, for orchids other than cymbidiums, is under some of the new shade cloth fabric. I have two areas; one is covered with 80% shade cloth, another is covered with 73% shade cloth. That sounds like heavy shade, but plants thrive under it. I doubt the percentage of the material is the light level getting to the plants. One year at the Del Mar Fair with 55% shade cloth over the booth I got unburned!

Some orchids could be grown under a shade tree with sparse branches, or under a patio that lets in a lot of morning and afternoon sun. Protection from the real heat of the day is important during the summer, and from frost in the winter. Usually frost here is a settling frost. It doesn't blow back under covers. Usually if there is wind there is no frost, but when it's clear and still, look out!

Following is a group of plants that will grow very easily outdoors:

(continued on page 26)

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

LANDSCAPING WITH DROUGHT-TOLERANT AND NATIVE PLANTS THAT GROW WELL IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY; A COURSE OF SIX WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Cynthia Carlson will be the instructor for this offering by Sweetwater Adult School. Slides, many handouts and plant material will illustrate landscaping principles, enabling the amateur gardener to select, plant and maintain the types of plants that best meet his/her gardening needs.

At the end of each series of classes, students and their families will be invited to Quinta Helena Gardens, in Dulzura, for a field trip to see the plants they've been studying, as they grow in an actual garden setting.

One section of this course will be offered February 2, 9, 16, 23 and March 2, 9 from 6:30-9:30 P.M. at Eastlake School, Room 302, 1120 Eastlake Parkway, Chula Vista. The course will be repeated April 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4, 11 from 6:00-9:00 P.M. at Bonita Vista Middle School, Room 801, 650 Otay Lakes Road, Bonita. Fee for the course is \$10.00. You may call Cynthia Carlson at 468-3286 for further information.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

A recent addition to the SDFA library is *Children's Gardens: a Field Guide for Teachers, Parents and Volunteers* by Elizabeth Bremner and John Pusey. A child need not be in tow, however, for a person to benefit from this book. About half its 186 pages are devoted to a complete rundown on how to grow vegetables. Even the suggested learning activities in the second half of the book could be engaged in, to increase their knowledge, by adults who are lacking in gardening background.

This book, many others of value to gardeners — and pamphlets, beginning in price at \$1.50 — can be found in the UC Farm and Garden Publications catalog from:

Cooperative Extension, San Diego County
5555 Overland Avenue, Building 4
San Diego, CA 92123 or call 694-2845

Also available at the same source is a booklet called "Teletip," listing the numbers of about 350 recorded talks on a wide variety of home and garden subjects.

Master Gardener volunteers are available, at 694-2860, to answer your gardening and pest management questions. An annual **Home Gardening Seminar** organized by Master Gardeners usually takes place on a Saturday in March. There are so many useful and entertaining sounding classes scheduled simultaneously, a person would need to be triplets to attend every one of interest. You can be placed on the mailing list for a schedule by writing to the address above. If you attended in 1992, but not in 1993, I'm told that the computer has lost your listing.

WORKSHOPS IN CULTIVATION AND COOKING OF HERBS TAKING PLACE IN OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK

HERB GARDEN START participants will study the herb garden plan at Machado/Stewart Casa and be given slips, cuttings and seeds to start their home herb garden
FLORIGRAPHY learn "the language of flowers," and to identify the herbs and use them to construct a tussie-mussie

CULINARY (beginning in May) learn to make herbal cheeses and vinegars, be given, to take home, the twelve herbs that are part of the thirty-two ingredient Royal Salad, possibly go to lunch or have a picnic

CASUAL GARDEN TEA attendees will study the qualities of herbs, then pick some for their tea that they'll make in their own teapot that has been brought from home (with cup)

VICTORIAN TEA (3:00 P.M., Thursdays) taste what your great-grandparents enjoyed—at Robinson/Rose Museum teatime

No dates for these one-day events are set. Would-be participants are asked to call coordinator Lois Lundquist at 582-2865 to sign-up. When a sufficient number have expressed interest a workshop will be scheduled.

"Casual Garden Tea" and workshops will be at 10:30 or 11:00 A.M., on Tuesday.

Charges have not yet been set. They are expected to range from six to fifteen dollars. Proceeds go to the Living History Garden Program.

ALWAYS-POPULAR CLASSES TAUGHT BY BETTY NEWTON TAKING PLACE THIS WINTER/SPRING

USING LESS WATER/COLOR SWEEPS WITH NEW PLANTS AND OLD FAVORITES on Thurs., for six weeks starting February 3, 9:00-12:00 P/M., Foothills Adult Education Center, Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon, fee \$13.00

LANDSCAPING: TREES, SHRUBS AND FLOWERS — two sections, on Tuesdays or Wednesdays for 17 weeks — Tues., starting February 1, 6:30-9:30 P.M. at Grossmont Union High School, Room 51, 1100 Murray Drive, La Mesa, fee \$23.00

— Wed., starting February 2, 12:15-3:15 P.M., at Foothills Adult Ed. Center, Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, fee \$23.00

FLOWER GARDENS: YEAR-ROUND COLOR/ANNUALS, PERENNIALS, BULBS AND OLD-FASHIONED ROSES on Thurs., for 12 weeks starting March 17, 9:00- 12:00 P.M., at Foothills Adult Ed. Center, Room 12, El Cajon, fee \$23.00 Call 579-4795 for further information.

Additional text costs □

COMPILED BY JACQUELINE COLEMAN



Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES
Compiled by Penny Bunker

BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH the watering program - slower growth requires less water. Do not allow to dry out or to become too wet.

TO KEEP plants clean - remove dead leaves and old foliage.

TO START cutting back canes and shrub types.

TO ADD more planter mix as needed to keep roots covered.

TO SPRAY for mildew.

TO CONTROL slugs, snails, mealybugs and loopers.

TO START in February tuberous types for summer blooms.

BONSAI

Dr. Herbert Markowitz

NOW IS THE TIME

TO COLLECT native stock in the California region. Plant the native trees in a larger container, not a bonsai pot.

TO GRAFT conifers, deciduous and evergreen trees.

TO USE lime-sulphur spray on deciduous trees.

TO REDUCE watering if a rainy period.

TO PRUNE fruit-bearing bonsai.

TO WATCH for aphids and other sucking insects; spray accordingly.

TO REMEMBER NOT to fertilize your trees. Allow plants to rest.

TO START in February to repot and transplant some varieties if weather is favorable.

BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP plants from damage by possible hail. Give them overhead protection such as placing them under trees, shade cloth or any other suitable material.

TO PROTECT plants from freezing temperatures;

keep at least 2-inches above ground and cover with newspapers, sheets, etc. or bring them indoors.

TO BE careful when having plants indoors not to place them in front of a heating vent or in a drafty area.

TO EMPTY water from outdoor plants when it has rained consistently for two or three days. The weight of too much water can cause the leaves to spread apart, effecting the compact form.

TO CUT the frequency of watering during the cooler weather.

TO NOT fertilize until weather begins to warm.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Joseph A. Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMEMBER to rest winter dormant plants and keep the winter growers happy. Be careful with water and fertilizer as it gets cold - water in the early part of a sunny day so water will evaporate and fungi will not start easily. If it looks like rain, hold off on the water.

TO PROTECT outside plants from excessive rain if possible. If frost is likely, a little protection with a piece of paper or plastic can save a plant. Many tropical succulents will turn into a mass of soggy pulp if frozen. Remember to remove cover when conditions become more favorable.

TO WATCH new cuttings - they may not root quickly. If you can supply bottom heat you should not have much of a problem.

TO KEEP an eye on the seedlings. Fungi can be a problem at this time. Snails can make a great midnight snack of the seedlings - use some form of snail and slug control if needed.

TO CLEAN up old pots and pick up the last of the old leaves and other debris. You do not want to encourage mice and roof rats. Rodents can make a mess of your prize plants.

TO NOTE those plants you want to propagate the next growing season. Find out how to make new starts. Plan your spring display now.

CAMELLIAS

E. C. (Gene) Snooks

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAINTAIN a regular watering schedule to supplement periods between rains. Plants must be kept moist but not wet.

TO CHOOSE and plant camellias while they are in bloom.

TO KEEP plants clean and pick up all blooms to prevent petal blight.

TO FEED with 2-10-10 fertilizer to get better and larger blooms.

TO MAKE grafts.

TO TREAT a few buds with gibberellic acid for larger flowers.

TO TRANSPLANT camellias; do not fertilize newly transplanted plants.

DAHLIAS

Abe Jansen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO DIG any tubers left in the ground. By early January the tops should be completely withered. Cut tops just above the ground.

TO STORE tubers without dividing. Store in vermiculite or sand, leaving on the soil that clings to them. Keep in a cool place.

TO INSPECT those tubers stored earlier for any sign of shriveling. If too dry, add a little moisture.

TO START in February to prepare the planting bed. Turn the soil, add humus and fumigate. Dig in humus and add equal parts of superphosphate and sulphate of potash. Turn over well. Add fertilizer two or three weeks before planting.

TO SPROUT some selected roots in February - these make good cuttings. Bottom heat may be applied to encourage sprouting.

EPIPHYLLUMS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO TAKE advantage of beneficial rains. Collect the rainwater for future use. Store in opaque containers to prevent infestation of mosquito larvae and buildup of algae.

TO PROTECT plants from unexpected frost and strong wintry winds.

TO BAIT for snails and slugs.

TO SPRAY insecticides only if necessary. Do not use oilbase types. Use Orthene™, malathion, and Cygon™ available locally. Read and follow directions carefully.

TO PRUNE out dead and unsightly growth, allowing more energy to be used by newer and healthier branches.

TO FEED mature plants with a 0-10-10 fertilizer to promote blooming in spring. Use liquid or slow-release granules. Another application may be necessary in about thirty days.

FERNS

Ray Sodomka

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRAY for aphids, especially maidenhair.

TO WATER gently, but do not soak. On cool nights soaking keeps their feet too cold. Do not rely on rain to find your hidden and covered plants - they may remain dry.

TO TRIM off old fronds in frost free areas.

TO FERTILIZE *Platyceriums* (stag horns) with bone

meal, hoof & horn, or high nitrogen liquid.

TO REMOVE and remount *Platycerium* pups.

TO PLANT spores.

TO CHECK for spider mites on the underside of fronds. Mites are very small and may not be seen. Fronds will be silvery on top and start to turn brown. Spray with malathion or miticide.

TO REPOT, rebasket and divide ferns in frost free areas.

FUCHSIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE fuchsias severely if not done in the fall.

TO CLEAN up all leaves and other trash in baskets, pots and around ground plants.

TO SPRAY remaining foliage and ground to eradicate pests that may winter over.

TO KEEP plants moist but not wet.

TO FEED with a good fertilizer - fish (10-5-5) or a slow release type. These can be used for your year-round feeding.

TO USE insecticides or fungicides if there is a problem.

GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)

Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

TO CONTINUE feeding with a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water. Use less than the recommended strength. Apply as often as needed to keep plants growing well.

TO CONTINUE a pest control and disease prevention program, using all products according to the manufacturer's direction.

TO PRUNE any plants that have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on stems of regals, scented and similar types. Lanky plants that were pruned earlier can be cut back again to produce more compact plants. Tip pinch other plants that were pruned in the fall.

TO MAKE cuttings from the pruning. Shelter cuttings from extreme weather.

TO PROTECT plants from freezing temperatures. Temporary coverings may be used. Containerized plants may be moved to a sheltered location.

TO ROTATE plants on a regular basis in order to keep them well-shaped.

IRIS

San Diego-Imperial County Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP old brown fans off the tall bearded. Good

ground cleaning and spraying is helpful in pest control.

TO MAKE last plantings of bulbous irises for spring bloom.

TO WATCH watering, if rains are light. Rhizomes should not be allowed to dry out.

TO START a regular spraying program with copper oil to help control rust.

TO START in February to feed all irises with 0-10-10 liquid fertilizer. Follow directions carefully and do not over fertilize.

ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK the moisture in pots of outdoor growing orchids including cymbidiums under cover. Protect them from cold rains and possible hail damage.

TO CONTINUE staking and grooming cymbidium flower spikes.

TO USE low-nitrogen fertilizer on cymbidiums. Do not feed if overcast.

TO KEEP mobile-type dendrobiums on the dry side. Watch for swelling of nodes for flower production, then move them to where it is warmer.

TO REMEMBER phals should be spiking and if moving the plant, to place it in the same general direction and area so that the flowers will bloom in a uniform manner.

TO WATER early in the morning so crowns will be dry by nightfall.

TO WATCH closely for slugs and snails. These pests are coming out of hibernation and proliferating after the rains. Granules of 7.5% metaldehyde are an excellent bait and do not attract children or pets and do not leave a mess.

TO BE AWARE in outlying areas of any sudden temperature drops.

ROSES

San Diego Rose Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLANT bare-root roses. To prevent dehydration mound each bush with damp soil until new growth starts.

TO PRUNE roses. Watch for dates for the demonstrations on pruning in Balboa Park.

TO FINISH all major pruning jobs and follow with a garden cleanup and a good dormant spraying of bushes and surrounding areas.

TO CULTIVATE established roses as new growth starts and feed using one cupful per bush.

TO GIVE newly planted bushes a feeding of liquid fertilizer six weeks after planting.

TO START preventative spraying in February for mildew and aphids. Use ½ strength on new foliage.

TO ADD iron chelate after roots start growing. (Iron can only be absorbed by new roots.)

TO SUPPLY adequate water, especially if no rains, when rose bushes are growing rapidly.

NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO LOOK for swelling on and near the flower buds of *Ceanothus*. This indicates the presence the ceanothus stem gall moth larvae (*Periploca ceanothiella*). This pest can cause considerable damage. The only way I've found for control is to use a systemic or hand pick all the swollen buds.

TO DO your "spring cleaning" and keep the area around your plants free of decaying plant material that might lead to disease.

TO LOOK at native plant garden and nurseries in order to get an idea what plants you might like in the fall. Fall is right for planting them, but late winter and early spring is the time to see them in bloom.

TO VISIT Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in order to see all the natives in one place. Their spring bloom is spectacular.

TO PRUNE dead wood off shrubs if you haven't done so already. It needs to be done before spring growth starts. For *Ceanothus*, it will be too late.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension
NOW IS THE TIME

TO FINISH pruning dormant deciduous trees and vines before leaf buds start to grow.

TO PRUNE evergreens just before or when new growth begins.

TO SPRAY dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil before buds begin to open to control overwintering insect pests.

TO SPRAY dormant peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide) before buds begin to open to control leaf curl.

TO PLANT dormant bare-root trees and vines.

TO PAINT the trunks with whitewash to protect the bark from sunburn injury.

TO PROVIDE frost protection for young citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension
NOW IS THE TIME

TO CONTINUE planting cool-season vegetables that are not likely to be damaged by frost. Cool-season

TWO EAST COUNTY NURSERIES

DAYLILIES OF TOMORROW & PERENNIAL ADVENTURE

by PAUL DEMARTINI

EAST COUNTY BECKONS the gardening enthusiast with two family run specialty nurseries. Both nurseries feature a unique selection of plant materials that would be difficult to find at other local nurseries. As both nurseries are 15 to 20 minutes apart, they make an enjoyable morning or afternoon outing.

DAYLILIES OF TOMORROW . . .

Daylilies of Tomorrow is the passion of Don Hardgrove and his wife Mary. The word passion reflects the dedication and enthusiasm that has resulted in over 6000 hybrid daylilies. The nursery opened in 1976 and at that time featured roses as its specialty. In time daylilies were included in their offering and were soon outselling the roses ten to one. Thus the roses were not able to justify their trouble and daylilies have ever since been the specialty of the nursery.

At the time Mr. Hardgrove chose to specialize in daylilies, he was no stranger to plant breeding. When he lived in the east, he devoted himself to the hybridization of rhododendrons and for a time was president of the Rhododendron Society. This helps to explain the remarkable beauty and variety of his daylilies.

The result of his hybridization is a stunning display of color and form. Not only are many of the blooms larger than the typical daylily but the coloring encompasses a broad spectrum from yellow to peach to lavender to the reds and oranges. There are not many plants that will reward the gardener with such magnificent blooms with a minimum of care.

NOW IS THE TIME (continued from page 18)

vegetables include broccoli, brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, potatoes (white), radish, rutabaga and turnip.

TO USE floating row cover fabric on seeded and transplanted crops to accelerated their growth.

TO PLANT dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus and rhubarb.

TO PLANT seeds of medium day-length onions such as 'White Sweet Spanish', 'Stockton Yellow Globe', and 'Italian Red' (short storage life) during February for bulbs in late summer.

TO ORDER seeds of warm season vegetables for planting in the spring.

The best time to visit the nursery is in June when it is bedecked in a blaze of color. Still the visitor can enjoy a rich sampling of the available stock since the daylilies are in bloom from February to November. A comprehensive photo portfolio also is available to assist in choosing those that are not in bloom. The daylilies are available in 1 to 5 gallon sizes and it should be noted that prices start at around six dollars and can reach as much as one hundred for some of the newer hybrids.

PERENNIAL ADVENTURE . . .

Christine Wotruba had a most unlikely introduction to horticulture. With a background in art, Mrs. Wotruba took an interest in paper making, specifically creating exotic papers from plants. In order to maintain a supply of unusual plants, she began to propagate and grow plants on her own. This, in turn, led to a fascination with plant materials beyond their paper making potential. Thus began her Perennial Adventure.

Perennial Adventure is located in the owner's home nestled in the shade of majestic California pepper trees. The offering of over 150 plant materials encompasses mostly perennials but also includes some shrubs, bulbs and grasses. Many of the plants are hard to find since Mrs. Wotruba participates in seed exchanges from such places as England and South Africa. Hence the adventure begins when the gardener experiments with these untried plants challenging the boundaries of our plant palette. For those who need more predictable results, the owner has developed a demonstration garden where some of the subjects have been tested for several seasons.

Among the exotic offerings are: myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*), a succulent type perennial with yellow grey leaves; cranesbill (*Geranium pyrenaicum alba*), a mounding white flowering perennial; and scarlet wisteria tree (*Sesbania tripetii*), a small tree with orange-red flowers. A helpful feature of the nursery is an updated plant listing that provides the Latin and common name, growth habit, size and color of the flower or leaf.

Since both nurseries are run and staffed by the proprietors, the customer is the beneficiary of a wealth of expertise regarding cultural practices and plant selection. Both Perennial Adventure and Daylilies of Tomorrow are a great resource to add that special touch to your garden. □

PAUL DEMARTINI is a Director of SDFA and owns a landscaping business -



Book Reviews

THE GREEK PLANT WORLD IN MYTH, ART AND LITERATURE

Helmut Baumann

Portland, Timber Press, 1993, 252 pages, 422 color photos, 45 b&w photos, 45 b&w illustrations, 5" x 8 1/2", hardcover, \$29.95

This is an English translation of a work published originally in German. A small volume in size but immense in scope of information of Greek history, myth, art and literature. The beautiful photographs of plants in their native habitat that have survived for thousands of years emphasize the capability of the natural world to renew itself. Through the author's knowledge of the early works of Homer, Herodotus and Plato and aided by the many later works of botany and the classical world, he has created a tapestry of great and enduring beauty. Included are discussions of cults and myths with information regarding medicinal and magic plants from Homer to Hippocrates. It illustrates man's use of nature and encourages us to hope for the future. Plant ornamentation has always played an important role in all forms of Greek art, sculpture and painting, and symbolized life through the cycle of renewal of leaves, flowers and fruits.

This book will be savored by those wishing to recapture memorable experiences while visiting Greece. All visitors will find this a delightful travel companion, even if only from an armchair. The author has included a plea to travelers to recognize the need to refrain from taking plants now threatened with extinction. "Photographs provide much better mementos."

Reviewed by Marianne D. Truby

BONSAI BASICS, A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO GROWING, TRAINING & GENERAL CARE

Christian Pessey and Remy Samson

New York, Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 120 pages, 1993, 203 color photos, 85 b&w illustrations, 6 1/4" x 10 1/4", softcover, \$9.95

The word bonsai conjures up several thousand years of art: the growing of a tree in a tray. One of the joys of growing bonsai is that they do not need much space. Most

bonsai grow outdoors but the authors recommend several plants suitable for indoor growing. This book is fully and beautifully illustrated with detailed color photographs and black and white drawings. It traces the art of bonsai with its history, philosophy, styles and traditions.

Christian Pessey and Remy Samson have done an excellent job in presenting this book, step-by-step from the choosing and obtaining the bonsai through its training and ongoing care. The last chapter covers a seasonal check list to remind you what to do and when.

Illustrations show the "official" shapes, designed to look like those in nature, divided by single trees, trees with several trunks and groups of trees or forests. The single tree having the most possibilities: trunk upright, leaning, curved or twisted, and the branches upright, cascading, windblown or developing only at the crown.

After reading this book you will be enticed with the art of bonsai so much that you will want to start a miniature tree of your very own.

Reviewed by John Rojas, Jr.

A PASSION FOR DAYLILIES

Sydney Eddison

New York, Henry Holt and Co., 1993, 343 pages, 34 b&w illustrations, 5 1/2" x 9 1/4", softcover, \$15.95

Almost everyone has a daylily in their garden or at least recognizes them. The author grows close to 150 cultivars in her border garden. Curiosity about the hybridizers led to the present book. She interweaves information about the flowers with stories about those who developed the daylily. Included is a quotation from a British horticulturist who believes Americans have gone "berserk" in adding new cultivars. After reading that 1,079 new cultivars were added in 1991 bringing the total at that time to 33,368, you wonder if it isn't true.

The stories about the non-professionals who were able to make significant contributions to the development of the daylily were the most enjoyable. These include: Elsie Spalding, who inherited her aunt's collection; Ida Munson, working with her architect son, Bill; Jim Marsh, who worked 41 years as a plasterer; and Virginia Peck, a professor of English at Middle Tennessee State Univ., whose interest started when she made a careless daylily cross. There are also chapters on the research of Dr. A. B. Stout, father of the modern daylily, and the collecting of Dr. A. N. Steward while teaching at the Univ. of Nanking in China. The use of colchicine to produce tetraploids and other chapters on technical information complete the book.

Learning that prolific cultivars may produce fifty flowers on a scape and a clump would have numerous scapes may make you want to update your garden's daylilies.

Reviewed by R. Cox

THE PEONY

Alice Harding

Portland, Timber Press, 1993, 180 pages, 26 color photos, 6 1/4" x 9 1/4", hardcover, \$29.95

This book is a reprint of two classic works on the peony by Alice Harding: *The Book of the Peony* (1917) and *Peonies in the Little Garden* (1923). Roy G. Klehm has provided the introduction, added appendices and updated information.

Peonies are native to China, Siberia and Europe south of the 48th parallel. *Paeonia brownii* is included as the only peony native to the Western Hemisphere and found in California and the Northwest. Currently *The Jepson Manual* lists both *P. brownii* and *P. californica*. Beauchamp in *A Flora of San Diego County, California* lists seventeen locations where *P. californica* has been found in San Diego County.

This book will appeal to history buffs as the chapter on mythology and history is very good. Earliest mention of the peony is in Homer's *Iliad* and the first detailed description is in Pliny's *Natural History*. Those wanting to experiment growing the peony would be wise to refer to the November 1993 issue of *Sunset* that recommends certain varieties for mild climates rather than use Appendix K that identifies USDA plant zones two through seven and possibly eight as growing limits for the peony.

Reviewed by R. Cox

THE GARDENER'S HANDBOOK: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR SUCCESS WITH PLANTS

Dr. Stefan Buczacki

New York, Henry Holt and Company, 1993, 224 pages, 5 1/4" x 8 1/4", hardcover, \$22.95

This book is written primarily for the inexperienced gardener. Guidelines on practical gardening such as preparing soil, seeds and compost, and garden basics such as design, paths and patios are clear and well illustrated.

The second half of the book on individual plants is very attractive with excellent color illustrations, the majority by Lynn Chadwick. Before becoming overenthused about a particular plant make sure it is suitable to your climate zone by referring to *Sunset Western Garden Book*. In any case you will enjoy discovering some new plants even if they are not suitable for planting in your garden.

Reviewed by R. Cox

THE 500 BEST GARDEN PLANTS

Patrick Taylor

Portland, Timber Press, 1993, 320 pages, 5" x 7 1/2", softcover, \$19.95

The 500 plants described in this book are the favorites of the author. In the brief text accompanying the photographs of the plants, he explains the merits of each. The selection is divided into: Bulbs, Herbaceous Perennials, Shrubs, Climbers and Wall Plants, and Trees.

Many pictures are very small, but are still quite clear.

The information and research was collected on English gardens. The given time of flowering, for example, is based on southern England. Many plants included in this book would not be suitable for Southern California.

The book is well organized and would, no doubt, be more of an asset to gardeners in the Northeast or at least in a more northern location.

Reviewed by Dorcas Utter

THE BERNARD E. HARKNESS SEEDLIST HARKNESS HANDBOOK, Second Edition

Mabel G. Harkness

Portland, Timber Press, 1993, 518 pages, 6" x 9", softcover, \$29.95

Bernard Harkness was Seed Director for the American Rock Garden Society for twelve years and started compiling this handbook in 1974. Since his death in 1980, his widow, Mabel Harkness, has carried on his work by updating the seedlist periodically. This book is a compact alphabetical listing of plant genera and species, with an emphasis on alpine and rock garden plants. Each species entry includes coded information about growth habit and hardiness, height, flower color or distinguishing characteristic, country of origin, and references for more information.

Although many of the described plants are more suitable for colder climates than most of us experience, Southern California rock gardeners will want to investigate this extensive seedlist for new treasures. Some genera such as *Campanula*, *Dianthus* and *Sedum* have numerous species entries that may not be included in other encyclopedic references.

Reviewed by Barbara Daniels

A BOTANICAL TOUCH

Cynthia Gibson

New York, Viking Studio Books, 288 pages, 250 color photos, 9 1/2" x 11", hardcover, \$45.00

This is a book of beauty and Love! Love for nature and the many varied ways we use to reproduce it in art, antiques, pottery and china. Her "arrangements" of loved possessions, flowers and garden parties will inspire the reader to survey their own materials with new ideas and enthusiasm. While we may not have the large spaces shown here in beautiful colored photos, also included are examples of clever uses for smaller spaces. Her flower arrangements are not the stylized versions we have become accustomed to but rather simple arrangements of home grown materials and remind us how much fresh flowers can contribute to make a house a home. Some information on dried materials is included as well as recipes featuring edible flowers. The reader will be impressed with and reminded of the art of home entertaining. Perhaps this book will encourage us to recapture this simple pleasure.

Reviewed by Marianne D. Truby



SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Garden Center and Library - Founded in 1907
Casa del Prado Room 105 San Diego CA 92101-1619
619/232-5762

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

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1994

February 15, April 19,
June 14, October 18
5:45 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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San Diego CA 92109-2134

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AND LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION (PWHLA)

Pres: Lucy Warren 295-0342

P. O. Box 3456

San Diego CA 92163-1456

2nd Tue - Sep/Nov/Feb/Apr

6:30 pm, Casa del Prado

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS

FOUNDATION, INC

Pres: Caroline Stabile 436-3036

P. O. Box 230005

Encinitas CA 92023-0005

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Dir: Jeff Wilder 566-5834

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San Diego CA 92126-2219

3rd Sat - 12:00 pm, Casa del Prado

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Lemon Grove CA 91945-3337

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BERNARDO GARDENER'S CLUB

Mrs. Maxine Schimmel 451-3482

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San Diego CA 92128-1580

3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Joslyn Senior Center,

Rancho Bernardo

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Pres: Mrs. Lillian Castagna 267-6808

5240 Margaret Drive

Bonita CA 91902-2108

2nd Wed - 9:30 am, Rohr Park Manor,

Sweetwater Road

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741 Cabrillo Avenue

Coronado CA 92118-2915

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267 Oxford Street

Chula Vista CA 91911-3352

3rd Wed - 1:00 pm, Rohr Park Manor, Bonita

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6197 Arno Drive

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1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Recreation Club House

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966 I Avenue

Coronado CA 92118-2450

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Pres: Mrs. John M. Andersen 435-9041

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4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Betty Gilliam 749-0039

P. O. Box 802

Valley Center CA 92082-0802

2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

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Escondido CA 92027-1467

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2469 Avenida de la Playa

La Jolla CA 92037-3204

2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

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2nd Mon - 9:30 am, 4975 Memorial Drive,

La Mesa

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Pres: Marcia Wilcox 488-6467

653 Carla Way

La Jolla CA 92037-8013

3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J. Lutheran Church

LAKESIDE GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Esther Schmidt 561-0867

15614 Hawley Court

El Cajon CA 92021-2534

3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Lakeside Rec. Center

LAS JARDINERAS

Pres: Mrs. Gretchen Allen 222-3643

356 San Geronimo Street

San Diego CA 92106-3342

3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

All area codes are 619 unless otherwise noted.

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Vista, CA 92084-1408			Fallbrook CA 92028-1845			10942 Sunray Place		
3rd Sat - 1:00 pm, Miracosta Community College, Horticulture Building #F78			4th Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado			La Mesa CA 91941-7241		
PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB			IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO			Last Sat - 10:30 am, Home of Members		
Pres: Mrs. Dale S. Munda	272-9727		Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler	278-5689		BONSAI		
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CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.			Pres: Mrs. Michiko Yoshida	673-8313		2nd Sun - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado		
Dir: Mrs. L.L. Cottingham (Nancy)	222-4616		14154 Capewood Lane			BROMELIAD		
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San Diego CA 92107-4252			2936 Havasupai Avenue			2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado		
2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Westminster Presby Church			San Diego CA 92117-1641			SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY		
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P. O. Box 27			Pres: Mrs. Leroy Lahey	429-6198		San Diego CA 92138-3941		
Poway CA 92064-5259			2829 Flax Drive			4th Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado		
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Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067-0483			Pres: Mr. Leonard C. King	298-3754		Escondido CA 92033-0840		
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5110 Leicester Way			HEARTLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY			1168 23rd Street		
San Diego CA 92120-1242			Pres: Pat Akers	579-1975		San Diego CA 92102-1918		
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Pres: Mrs. Grant S. Baze	756-3443		3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Wells Park Ctr, El Cajon			SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY		
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4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens			6475 50th Street			El Cajon CA 92020-2094		
SCRIPPS MESA GARDEN CLUB			San Diego CA 92120-2709			3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado		
Pres: Cindy Drake	271-8933		2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Christ United Methodist Church			DAHLIA		
9842 Hibert Street #276			BAMBOO			SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY		
San Diego CA 92131-1096			SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER			Pres: Gerald Lohmann	279-5135	
4th Mon - 6:00 pm, Scripps Ranch Library			AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY			6616 Rockgen Avenue		
THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA			Sec: George Shor	453-0334		San Diego CA 92111-4108		
Pres: Mrs. W. Keith Garrick (Pat)	287-0282		2655 Ellentown Road			4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado		
6252 Lance Place			La Jolla, CA 92037-1147			EPIPHYLLUM		
San Diego CA 92120-3713			BEGONIA			SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY		
4th Thu - 1:00 pm, United Methodist Church			ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH			Pres: Mrs. Margaret Pethley	484-4189	
THE VILLA GARDEN CLUB			AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY			14426 Calle Nublado		
Pres: Mr. William Winters	727-5505		Pres: Mrs. Crystal Zook	226-6667		San Diego CA 92129-3811		
3030 Winters Hill			526 San Elijo Street			2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado		
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1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center			2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Home of Members			SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY		
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ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA			AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY			1418 Park Row		
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						9914 Paseo Montalban		
						San Diego CA 92129-2752		

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1298 Raven Avenue
Chula Vista CA 91911-3814
2nd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY

Pres: Mrs. Gladys Ford 286-3976
5942 Alta Mesa Way
San Diego CA 92115-6102
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

HEMEROCALLIS

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Pres: Ms. D. D. Herman-Walker 263-5324
P. O. Box 131286
San Diego CA 92170-1286
1st Sat - 10:00 am, Quail Gardens

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THE S. D. COUNTY HERB SOCIETY

Pres: Kathleen Delancey 746-5038
3502 Lomas Serenas Drive
Escondido CA 92020-7907

THE HERB CLUB

Pres: Judy Dunning 669-0222
15255 Lyons Valley Road
Jamul CA 91935-3416
3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Call for location

HOYA

SAN DIEGO HOYA GROUP

c/o: Harriette Schapiro 273-4267
5217 Cassandra Lane
San Diego CA 92109-1314
North County 432-8640

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SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES

IRIS SOCIETY

Pres: Mr. Walter McNeel 483-5144
4486 Ute Drive
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THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Johnny Stellini 233-4338
2775 A Street #C
San Diego, CA 92102-1043
1st Mon - Casa del Prado

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Bertha McKinley 270-9573
P. O. Box 1390
San Diego, CA 92112
3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Pres: Donna Zimmer 480-4750
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Escondido, CA 92029
4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Home Fed Bank, RB

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY BRANCH

Pres: Craig Johnson 721-5547
1972 Ivy Road
Oceanside, CA 92054-5677
3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Carlsbad Woman's Club

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

Pres: Mr. Robert W. Marlin, Sr. 753-6952
310 Seeman Drive
Encinitas CA 92024-2840
1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Ernest Burley 479-9838
6500 San Miguel Road
Bonita CA 91902-2934
3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Cherrice Grasso 421-7279
683 Via Encantada
Chula Vista CA 91913
1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Frank Grasso 235-0004
P. O. Box 86124
San Diego CA 92138-6124
3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES

Pres: Curt Lutz 224-4423
932 H Avenue
Coronado CA 92118-2524

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

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AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates Editor *California Garden*, Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park, San Diego CA 92101-1619. Call 232-5762.
Deadline for Mar-Apr issue: Jan 15, 1994.

The editor wishes to extend congratulations to all who worked so diligently to make San Diego Floral Association's part in "Christmas on the Prado" the success that it was.

In special thanks for the efforts of Kathy Walsh in organizing and directing our "Home for the Holidays" show, we're giving a little publicity to one of her current interests:

The American Ivy Society

The American Ivy Society

Presents a monthly series of "Ivy Teas," on Sundays in the Park at 1:00 P.M. Free Lectures, Tea and Edibles

January 16

The national president will share her knowledge of the great variety of ivies in the US.

February 20

A past president of the local chapter will tell the story of her travels in the US and Europe searching for the rare and unusual in ivies, topiaries and gardens.

April 3

The president of the San Diego Chapter of the Society will speak about ivy in San Diego, the Botanical Building in particular, followed by an hour-long walk to view the ivies of Balboa park.

May 15

A professional gardener from the San Diego Zoo will give a talk on the collection of ivies at the Zoo, followed by an hour-long walk to view the collection.

Reservations are not necessary.

Call 436-0460 for more info.

Attention Affiliates . . .

Are you aware that each affiliate group is entitled to a free 2 1/4 column inch advertisement once each year?

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION TOURS

Helen Gagliardi - Tour Chairman

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1994
WRIGLEY MANSION
NUCCIO'S NURSERY

HISTORY AND TRADITION IN PASADENA - The stately WRIGLEY MANSION is open just a few days of the year for public tours and we invite you to join us for one of these special occasions. The furniture, the ambiance, the spacious elegance of by-gone days have been preserved and should delight you.

The morning will be spent at the family-owned NUCCIO'S NURSERY that will be open for a private tour. Camellias have been bred, cultivated and tended at this historic nursery for over half a century. February is a prime month for camellias, so be prepared to see and enjoy the multitude of these flowers. We did not inquire about purchasing plants. They have a world-wide wholesale, mail-order business - but this is a closed day.

Naturally we will have a pleasant lunch - included.

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 17, 1994
WRIGLEY MANSION - NUCCIO'S
Lunch is included

- ☐ \$32.50 Members (who pay dues to SDFA)
- ☐ \$35.50 Non-Members, Members of Affiliates

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PICK-UPS

- ☐ Red Lobster Park and Ride Grossmont Center, La Mesa 7:00 a.m.
- ☐ Fashion Valley SW corner near Penney's - 7:30 a.m.
- ☐ Hadley's at Airport Road, Oceanside - 8:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1994
CUYAMACA COLLEGE
SINGING HILLS

San Diego Floral Association again is offering the popular Cuyamaca College - Singing Hills Country Club trip.

We will start with a tour of the Cuyamaca College innovative landscaping. Plants are labeled. Our knowledgeable guide will identify all the exotics in the extensive palm garden and the plant material in the tropical garden.

We will enjoy a catered lunch and then visit the sales area stocked with special plants grown by the students. We will be able to explore the new Museum of American Heritage while we are there.

A short drive beyond the college are the blazing flower beds of Singing Hills Country Club. We will stop so you can enjoy the flowers. It should be a colorful day even if raindrops fall. Bring your umbrella and a camera.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1994
CUYAMACA COLLEGE-SINGING HILLS
Lunch is included

- ☐ \$20.00 Members (who pay dues to SDFA)
- ☐ \$23.00 Non-members, Members of Affiliates

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PICK-UPS

- ☐ Fashion Valley SW corner near Penney's - 9:00 a.m.
- ☐ Red Lobster Park & Ride Grossmont Center, La Mesa - 9:30 a.m.

found mostly in foliage, but don't discount such green flowers as the calla 'Green Goddess,' *Euphorbia characias* ssp. *wulfenii*, *Callistemon pachyphyllus viridis* and the canary bird bush (*Crotonalaria agatiflora*) — all different shades of green by the way. As for foliage color, wisely used it can add enormous variety to the garden. I personally have always been content with the tremendous variety of green shades, but many gardeners favor plants with red or variegated foliage. It's true that a green and cream variegated plant can "lighten" a shady location, but an excess of such plants may well backfire and give the impression of chlorosis. Plants such as croton (*Codiaeum variegatum*) or fancy-leafed caladiums (*Caladium bicolor*) can provide attention-grabbing effects, but again must be used with considerable restraint and caution. In the case of caladiums, for example, I would limit their use to a single variety in a given section of the garden.

No one should impose their tastes on others, but as illustration rather than exhortation, I offer some color combinations that have pleased me through the years (note that in the San Diego climate, some of these plant combinations may not bloom at the same time): pale yellow roses (such as 'Irish Gold' or 'Peace' — not too deep a shade) in a bed edged with silver king artemisia, or other grey-foliaged plant; 'Medallion' or any other buff-apricot rose, with one of the blue-violet delphiniums and *Salvia farinacea* 'Victoria'; a brick red bougainvillea with a background of *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* (or other "blue" foliaged plant pruned as a shrub; and finally one of my all-time favorite concoctions — a *Brugmansia versicolor* 'Charles Grimaldi' (formerly *Datura*) with maize yellow trumpets shading to apricot, underplanted with hybrid callas, a *Zantedeschia rehmannii* hybrid of the same rose-streaked yellow, and in the foreground a tubed lotus, *Nelumbo nucifera* 'Mrs. Perry D. Slocum,' which opens pale yellow and gradually turns a soft pink over three successive days.

Color is a personal choice, but to make your own color statement "heard," you must orchestrate the color in each section of the garden in such a way that the visual effect is harmonious rather than cacophonous. □

FREDRIK LILJEBLAD has been a professional writer for over twenty years. He is the author of numerous textbooks on language learning and cookery, as well as a producer of educational videos. He has gardened in climates as diverse as Sweden, England, Thailand and Japan.

Laelia anceps — Probably the best starter plant if you have no other orchids, cattleya-type flower.

Lemboglossum rossi — Three-inch flowers, white with caramel brown spotting and mottling.

Ondontoglossums: *O. cordatum*, *O. bicktoniense*, *O. apterum*, *O. pulchellum*.

Zygopetalum — Very fragrant, looks similar to a *Cymbidium* plant. Plant is more tender.

Lockhartia oerstedii — From Mexico, difficult to find good, healthy plants. Fern-like foliage.

Epidendrums — A large and varied group of orchids called "ground orchids." Easy to grow outdoors. Tiny blossom clusters on long stems, many colors.

Oncidiums - Many species and hybrids. Requires plenty of drainage. Long sprays of many yellow and brown flowers about one inch across.

Orchids offer a wide range of types of plants and growing conditions with something like 25,000 to 40,000 distinct species and literally hundreds of thousands of hybrids. Many others will do well outside here. Visit your local orchid nursery and they will help you pick out something. Most of all, don't be afraid to experiment. Hobbyists like us are critical to the saving of many fine orchids worldwide. Their natural habitat is being destroyed by earth's greatest of all plagues, man! □

editor's note: (To see these and many other types of orchids visit the free Orchid Preview Show in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Feb. 19, 12:00-4:00 P.M. or Feb. 20, 10:00-4:00 P.M. Then, thousands of orchids will be on display at the spring Orchid Show and Plant Sale of the S.D. County Orchid Society on March 18, 19, 20. See the March/April issue for details.)

This is a partial reprint of an article in the March/April 1992 issue. Copies of this magazine are available at the S. D. Floral Association office if you'd like to read the very entertaining remainder.

HARRY TOLEN has owned and operated a hobby business called Chula Orchids for twenty-nine years. He is a member of many local orchid societies and edits the San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter.

The photo of Clowesia russelliana, with fragrant, light green flowers, was taken by Kathleen Tolen.

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by Eric Sigg



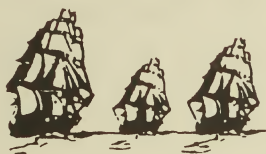
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All this and a great monthly newsletter for only \$7.50 (single membership) or \$10.00 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDOS.

The photo of Clowesia russelliana, with fragrant, light green flowers, was taken by Kathleen Tolen.

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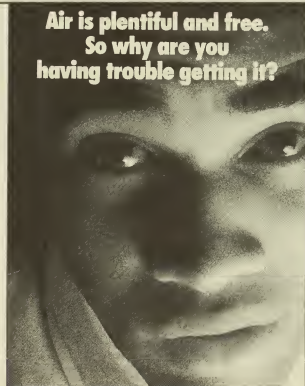
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